

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicants note that this amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 6, 8, 13, 15, 19 and 21-22 are pending for further examination. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 14, 16-18 and 20 have been canceled.

Applicants submit that the following amendments should place the claims in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance should be issued.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 7, which the Examiner indicated included allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 6 should be allowed.

Claim 8 depends from claim 6 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 6.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 14, which the Examiner indicated included allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 13 should be allowed.

Claim 15 depends from claim 13 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 13.

Claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 20, which the Examiner indicated included allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 19 should be allowed.

Claims 21-22 depend from claim 19 and should be allowed for at least the same reason as claim 19.

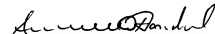
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fees for the petition for extension of time and RCE are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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